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DATE:

FILE NO: MRKS/0029.Y1

TO: Examiner Essama Omgba

FAX NO: 703-872-9306

COMPANY: USPTO

FROM: William B. Patterson

PAGE(S) with cover: 9

ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW? YES NO

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 4, 2004

U.S. Serial No.: 09/762,699

Conf. No.: 8491

Attorney Dkt. No.: MRKS/0029Y1

Applicants: Bernd-Georg Pietras

Filed: May 10, 2001

Entitled: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING TUBULARS
USING A TOP DRIVE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTERIn re Application of:
Bemd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 09/762,699

Confirmation No.: 8491

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: Methods And Apparatus For
Connecting Tubulars Using A
Top DriveMAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

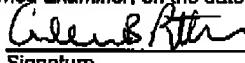
Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Essama Ormgb

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SEP 01 2004

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1 Sept 04 Date	
Signature	

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 4, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 4, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0029.Y1/WBP, the fee of \$86.00 for 1 additional claim, and for any other fees required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.